as Munsiffs and Magistrates. Muslim graduates in law should also be entertained in the higher ranks of the Judicial Department. In the Police and Excise Departments, even non-graduate Muslims should be appointed as Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. In order to ensure the due appointment of Muhommedans in all departments generally, monthly statements of Muhommedan candidates appointed should be published in the Gazette.

Two Muslim representatives should be nominated to the Legislative Council.

At least two Muhommedan students should be sent every year to some western universities for higher studies.

A Muslim girls' school should be opened soon at Quilon.

A Regulation should be passed by Government abolishing the Marumakkatayam law of inheritance among the Muslims.

The Holy Koran should be removed from the civil and criminal courts.

Friday should be declared a public holiday for Muslims.

Grants-in-aid should be awarded to the two Unani Vaidyasalas at Quilon and Trivandrum.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY: Mr. Abdul Rahiman Kutti, I need only refer you to the Dewan's reply to your representation on the subject of public service made by yourself at the 23rd session of the Assembly. The question of altering the Marumakkatayam law of inheritance prevailing amongst a section of your community has been referred to the Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, and his reply is awaited.

171. Disabilities of the Muhommedans and the removal thereof.

MR. MAITHEEN KUNJU KOCHUNNI (*Member, Nominated*) said that Muslim pupils should be given half-fee concession in all grant-in-aid schools just as in departmental schools. Representatives of all communities should also be appointed in the half-fee concession committees in each taluk. The committees, as they were constituted at present, consisted of people who, possessing as they did little local knowledge, could not tell between the rich and the poor students. So far as public service was concerned, Muhommedan candidates should be given due representation in accordance with the numerical strength of the community.

172. Muslims and the public service.

MR. BAPPU KUNJU MAITEEN PILLAI (*Member, Trading Classes, Changanachery*) said that opinion was divided in regard to the standard to be adopted for making recruitments to the public service. According to some people, efficiency was to be the sole standard; according to others it was the principle of communal representation that had to be followed. The advocates of efficiency belonged mostly to communities which had already taken hold of the big appointments in the public service. The theory of efficiency was only a ruse invented by them to retain what was already in their hands. So far as Government were concerned they had to follow a middle course by reconciling the two standards. They could follow the principle of communal representation without sacrificing the principle of efficiency.

It was this policy which Government had to pursue in their attitude towards the Muslims, Roman Catholics and other unrepresented communities. Muslims though perhaps not very strong in number were one of the important communities in the State. They had contributed in no small measure to the commercial advancement of the country. But all this was forgotten by Government in making the appointments in the public service. Government had indeed issued an order directing that preference should be given to Muslim candidates in all departments except the Judicial Department. But this order was simply given the go by to by heads of departments. Government should therefore obtain periodical returns from all departments regarding the vacancies occuring in the departments and the caste or religion of the persons appointed. So far as the Judicial Department was concerned, there were several qualified men who could be appointed in the various judicial institutions. If Government thought that there was no Mahommedan candidate in Travancore eligible for appointment in the High Court, they could get down a competent man from outside.

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PRESIDENT'S REPLY: Mr. Maitheen Kunju Kochunni and Mr Bappu Kunju Maiteen Pillai, in regard to your request for a more adequate representation of the members of your community in the public service, I believe the policy of Government in the matter is already known to you. Government and the heads of departments are showing special consideration to the claims of unrepresented and poorly represented communities for entertainment in the public service.

You speak of the unsatisfactory way in which fee concession committees are enquiring into the pecuniary position of applicants for scholarships. It is not possible to deal with a general statement like this. If you can specify the committees which are not functioning properly the matter will be looked into.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

173. Needs of Nadars.

MR. R. SIVASUBRAHMONYA NADAR (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Hindu Nadar community was one of the chief communities of the State having a population of more than two lakhs. So far as South Travancore was concerned, they were more prominent than any other community. But the treatment accorded to them by Government was very poor. They had not a single member in the Legislative Council. It was certainly impossible for every community to have a representative in the Council at the same time. But as the Dewan had himself stated in his address to the twenty-second session of the Assembly, nominations could be made from the various minority communities by rotation. In the last two Councils, Christians, Mahommedans, and Ezhavas had their turns. In the next Council, Nadars (Hindu) should be given a seat.

In the matter of appointments, there were still offices like the Account Office, the High Court, the Excise Commissioner's Office, the Registration Directors' Office etc., where there was not a single Nadar yet appointed. After all there were only a very small number of graduates among the Nadars, and these could easily be entertained in any of the above offices. Moreover, those few candidates who were already entertained in some departments were not yet confirmed in their appointments. In the ordinary course, they had to wait for years before they were confirmed. But in view of the backwardness of the community, they should be accorded some preferential treatment.

Most of the Nadars of South Travancore lived in villages. There were no approach roads in these villages. Government could not certainly undertake to open roads in every village, but it was their duty at least to connect the big villages together. For example a road to Osaravilai village from the 4th mile of the Kottar-Manakudi road and another from the 1st mile, 6th furlong, of the Dharmapuram road to Erulappapuram should be opened by Government. There were also some village roads which had to be taken up for maintenance by Government. The Kanagappapuram road in the Kanyakumari pakuthi and the road from the 4th mile, 3rd furlong, of the Martandam-Karingal road to the Killiyur pakuthi cutcherry were two such roads.

There were three other items of public works which should be attended to by Government urgently. These were a bridge across the Karavilai branch of the Anantan kal near Vilathivilai, a bathing ghat in the tank in S. No. 888 of the Vadiviswaram pakuthi, and another bathing ghat in the tank on the right side of the M. S. road, 19th mile, 1st furlong.

Lastly the disputed street at Myladi should be declared a *Rajapatha*.

PRESIDENT'S REPLY: Mr. Sivasubrahmanya Nadar, the first point mentioned by you is that adequate representation should be allowed to the members of the Nadar community in the public service and the Legislative Council. The general policy of Government in regard to the matter has already been made clear by the Dewan in his reply to Mr. N. R. Krishnan's representation yesterday. I do not wish to repeat it.

The second point urged by you is that preferential treatment should be given to the members of your community not only in initial appointments but also in promotions. This is a suggestion which I am unable to accept.

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